

REMARKS

Status of Application

Claims 1-25 constitute all currently pending claims in the application. Claims 1, 7, 11, 14, 20, 22, and 25 are amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8-10, 16-19, 20 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,522). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 20 are amended to recite “wherein the second area is placed in a side close to pressure generation parts relative to the first area.” Applicant submits that Miura fails to teach this feature of amended claims 1 and 20. In contrast to claims 1 and 20, the second area in Miura is placed in a side close to a reservoir relative to the first area.

Thus, Miura fails to teach each and every element of either of claims 1 and 20, and therefore fails to anticipate these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of amended independent claims 1 and 20, and their dependent claims 8-10, 16-19, and 23-25.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miura in view of Kitahara (JP Patent No. 2001-277524). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 2-6, 15, and 21 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 20. The deficiencies of Miura with respect to independent claims 1 and 20 are described above.

Kitahara, moreover, fails to make up for the above-described deficiencies of Miura, as Kitahara is cited merely for its alleged teaching of a head case section made of synthetic resin and a flow passage formation section that is made of stainless steel. (Office Action at 9.) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 7, 11-14 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant hereby rewrites these claims in independent form, and respectfully submits that claims 7, 11-14, and 22 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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